

REMARKS

Claims 2-5 and 7-17 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Claims 2-5, 7-9, 16 and 17 have been amended, and Claims 10-15 have been canceled, to more distinctly claim the present invention. It is believed and intended that no new matter has been added by this amendment. Reconsideration and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

The Examiner has not yet indicated acceptance of the drawings filed on March 24, 2000. Such acceptance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected Claims 2-5 and 7-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0053167 to Kitaoka (hereafter referenced as '167). The remarks set forth in the Amendment of September 11, 2002 are hereby incorporated by reference. In that Amendment, the Applicant argued that '167 uses an etching process to form grooves on a highly polished submount in an expensive process, while the present invention employs kerfs on an unpolished support. Also, the Applicant noted that '167 fails to disclose the particular dimensions of the pitch, depth, or flatness of the grooves and that such dimensions would be expected to be different between the present application and '167.

Further, the Applicant respectfully traverses the present rejection because neither '167 nor any combination of '167 with the knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art discloses or suggests an optical component fixing method including a step of bringing the optical component

into direct contact with the scored surface of a support. Even if, *arguendo*, the Examiner's assertion that the kerfs of the present invention are equivalent to the grooves of '167 is taken to be true, the optical component 204 of '167 is not placed into "direct contact" with the support 201. Instead, a protecting layer 205 is placed between the optical component 204 and the support 201, thereby precluding the direct contact claimed in the present application.

Moreover, Claims 2-4, 16 and 17 have been amended to recite "a step of forming a notch in the support" and further that the scoring a surface of the support is done "perpendicularly to the notch." Support for these amendments can be found on page 8, lines 7-11 of the specification of the present application. The "notch" is the portion in which a fluid adhesive is contained to fix the optical component to the support. On the other hand, the "kerfs" formed by scoring the surface of the support perpendicularly to the notch function as pathways through which the fluid adhesive flows into the notch. In contradistinction, the grooves disclosed in '167 are more like the "notch" of the present invention, since the grooves contain a solder therein to fix the optical component to the support. The '167 reference is silent about any type of pathways (or kerfs) which are formed perpendicularly to the grooves and through which a fluid adhesive flows into the grooves. Additionally, Claims 7-9 have been amended to more clearly claim that the surface includes a notch and Claims 7 and 8 have been amended to more clearly claim that the scoring kerfs are formed perpendicularly to the notch. The '167 reference includes no teaching of these limitations.

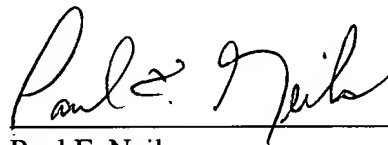
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
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In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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